

Be patient with orders for U.S. coins

By Roger Boye

Here are answers to more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—In late December I ordered 16 Bicentennial coin sets from the United States Mint. As of March 9th, I had received no coins. What should I do? I read about the sets in your column. Did you give bum information?

N.L., Chicago Heights

A—Be patient. Uncle Sam often takes three months, sometimes longer, to fill coin orders, especially those paid by credit card.

If you want to complain, write to the Customer Affairs Staff, United States Mint, 10001 Aerospace Drive, Lanham, Md. 20706.

Include your full name, a copy of both sides of your canceled check [or information about your method of payment] and a daytime telephone number. You also could inquire by calling 301-436-7400.

Q—How much silver is in old U.S. silver dollars? Are my coins worth more as collectibles or for their silver content?

T.E., Chicago

A—U.S. dollars minted for circulation between 1840 and 1935 each contain .77 ounce of silver, worth about \$4 at current metal prices.

Your coins probably would fetch \$10 or more—perhaps much more—as collector items; prices would depend on the date, mint mark and condition of each coin.



Two experts from the American Numismatic Association will authenticate and grade coins—free of charge—during the annual show of Milwaukee's South Shore Coin Club.

Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday [March 27 and 28] and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next Sunday at the MECCA Convention Center, 6th and Kilbourn Streets.

Also next Sunday, up to 20 dealers will sell their wares at the Lake County Coin Club's annual show. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Waukegan Moose Lodge, 2755 Washington St., Waukegan. Admission is free to both shows.